

REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-6, 9, 13, and 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 23, and 24 have been amended. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request that the Preliminary Amendment be added in this application.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett
Reg. No. 30,142
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: January 22, 2004